

ACT IT OUT (LEVEL 1)

Description	Learners explore emotions and storytelling through interactive activities, including acting out scenes from a chosen story. They learn about emotion identification, character traits, setting exploration, prop usage, dialogue creation, and they act scenes before an audience.
Leading question	What does it take to become a good actor?
Subjects covered	Literacy, Social and Emotional Learning
Total time required	40-50 minutes a day for 4 days
Resources required	Paper and pen/pencil <i>Optional: Glue, scissors, old magazines/ newspapers, colours</i>
Learning outcomes:	By the end of this project, learners will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop an understanding of basic emotions and the ability to express them through play and storytelling. 2. Foster imaginative thinking and creativity through activities like drawing settings, brainstorming props, and engaging in imaginative play. 3. Develop language skills through spoken dialogue creation, expression, and participation in group discussions.
Previous Learning	NA
Supervision required	Medium

Day 1 - Today, you will identify a story and the scene from it that you will enact.

Time	Activity and Description
15 minutes	Introduction to Emotions through Play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce basic emotions through visually appealing aids. Show pictures or drawings of happy, sad, scared, and excited faces. • Facilitate a group discussion by asking questions like, "Can you think of a time when you felt really happy?" Encourage sharing and validate their experiences. • Transition into a fun activity: lead the children in mimicking facial expressions and acting out different emotions. Use simple language and incorporate expressive body movements.
10 minutes	Story Exploration through Play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present an age-appropriate and visually engaging story (you may use the story in the appendix). Read the story animatedly, using varying tones and facial expressions to capture their attention.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After reading, initiate a group discussion about the story. Use open-ended questions to encourage participation: "Who was the main character?" "Where did the story take place?" "What do you think happened next?" • Emphasize the importance of listening and understanding stories, connecting it to their daily experiences.
15 minutes	<p>Acting out Simple Scenes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose a key moment from the story and act it out together as a group. Utilize props or simple costumes to enhance the imaginative experience. • Guide the children in expressing emotions through movements and facial expressions. For example, if the story involves a character feeling excited, act out a celebratory scene. • Provide positive reinforcement, praise their creativity, and celebrate their efforts. <p>Tip: Maintain a lively and energetic pace throughout the activities. Be flexible and responsive to the children's engagement levels, adjusting the duration of each segment as needed. Most importantly, foster a sense of joy and curiosity in exploring emotions and storytelling.</p>
At-home activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage parents to engage in emotion-themed games at home. For instance, they can ask their child to express how they would look or move if they were feeling a specific emotion. • Share a simple at-home activity: parents can help their child create a small "emotion chart" with drawings or pictures representing different feelings.

Day 2 – Today, you will identify characters, settings and emotions in a given story. You will learn about character traits and how to express the emotions of the characters.

Time	Activity and Description
15 minutes	<p>Identifying Emotions in Stories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start with a lively greeting and a quick recap of emotions learned on Day 1. • Introduce the concept of stories by showcasing a colorful storybook with simple narratives and engaging illustrations. • Encourage kids to share their favorite stories or characters. Use visual aids to discuss and identify emotions in these stories. For instance, "How do you think the character feels in this picture?"
10 minutes	<p>Choosing Our Story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the idea of choosing a story for their project. Display a few story options with vibrant images.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate a group discussion on each story, asking simple questions like, "Which story looks interesting to you?" or "What do you think might happen in this story?" Allow them to express their preferences and collectively choose a story for the project.
15 minutes	<p>Division of Simple Scenes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use large visual aids to explain the concept of scenes. Show simple drawings or images representing scenes (e.g., a park, a house, a happy moment). Together, divide the chosen story into simple scenes. Use engaging visuals to illustrate each scene. Emphasize that each scene should be short, about 2-3 minutes, and include at least two characters expressing emotions. Encourage them to suggest scenes from the story. <p>Tip: Keep the activities visually stimulating and maintain a playful atmosphere. Encourage participation by allowing them to use their favorite stuffed animals or toys as "characters" during the story discussion.</p>
At-home Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage parents to explore the chosen story at home with their child. Discuss the characters, setting, and possible scenes. Ask parents to help the child draw or create simple visuals representing different scenes from the story.

Day 3 – Today, you will learn about the setting in a story and start rehearsing.

Time	Activity and Description
10 minutes	<p>Setting Exploration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin with a brief recap of the chosen story and the scenes. Introduce the concept of the setting by discussing where the story takes place. Use simple language and ask questions like, "Where do the characters go in the story?" Engage them in a hands-on activity: provide large sheets of paper or cardboard and encourage them to draw or create elements representing the different settings in their story. For example, draw a park or a house.
10 minutes	<p>Prop-tastic Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the concept of props as objects that help make the story more interesting. Encourage creative thinking: ask them to think about objects around them that could be used as props. For instance, a hat as a crown for a king or a bag as a magical treasure. Demonstrate how to use simple props during play and let them experiment with various items.

20 minutes	<p>Creating Spoken Dialogues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain what a dialogue is and demonstrate a simple conversation. Encourage them to express their thoughts or feelings through talking. ● Engage learners in spoken dialogue creation. Ask questions like, "What would the character say when they meet a friend in the park?" Encourage verbal responses.
10 minutes	<p>Assign Characters and Playtime Rehearsal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assign characters among the children for the scenes. ● Engage in role play and playtime rehearsal. Encourage them to use their imagination, speak their lines, and use props during the play. <p>Tip: Keep the activities playful and interactive, focusing on verbal expression rather than writing. Celebrate their creativity and enthusiasm during the playtime rehearsal.</p>
At-home Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage parents to continue playtime rehearsals at home, creating a small performance area for the child to practice. ● Invite family and friends to watch a mini-performance and provide positive feedback.

Day 4 – Today, you will rehearse your scenes and present them before an audience.

Time	Activity and Description
15 minutes	<p>Rehearsal Fun</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Begin with a quick warm-up, encouraging children to express themselves through simple movements and sounds. ● Rehearse the play with dialogues and actions. Let them have fun with the props and encourage expressive acting. ● Invite an adult or teacher to observe and provide positive feedback. Make any adjustments or improvements based on the feedback.
15 minutes	<p>Magical Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each group comes forward, showcases their created setting, and acts out the story. Emphasize the importance of expression and creativity. ● While the groups perform, encourage the audience to note what they liked about the play, the acting, and any suggestions for improvement. ● After each presentation, invite a few audience members to share their feedback using prompts like "What did you enjoy?" and "What could be better?" Teach them to be respectful and kind in their observations.
10 minutes	<p>Reflective Moments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gather the children for a reflective discussion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ask open-ended questions about their experience: "Was acting easy or challenging for you?" "Were you nervous or confident while performing?" ● Encourage them to share what they enjoyed about the project and what they found challenging. ● Pose a playful question: "Would you consider becoming an actor when you grow up?" Allow them to express their imaginative thoughts. ● Discuss the overall project, focusing on what they learned and enjoyed. Encourage them to think about what they might do differently next time.
	<p>Closing Thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● End the reflection with positive affirmations, celebrating their creativity and effort. ● Express excitement about their performances and highlight the fun and learning throughout the project. <p><i>Tip: Keep the atmosphere supportive and celebratory. Use positive reinforcement to boost their confidence and create a safe space for reflection.</i></p>

<p>Additional Enrichment Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Costume Creation: incorporate a costume creation activity. Provide simple materials like colorful scarves, hats, or paper crowns for children to create costumes for their characters. - Character Drawings: Have a session where children draw their favorite characters from the story. This adds a visual art component to the project and allows them to showcase their creativity.
<p>Modifications for simplification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group Story Creation: Instead of choosing a pre-existing story, allow the children to collectively create a simple story together. This can be based on their favorite themes or characters.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

A majority of my learners were able to:

- Engage in play activities to express basic emotions such as happiness, sadness, excitement, and fear.
- Experiment with using simple props such as scarves, hats, or bags creatively during play and rehearsals.
- Act out short imaginative scenes of 1-2 minutes with expressive movements, gestures, and simple dialogues.

Appendix 1



story
weaver

The Birthday Party

Author: Pratham Books Team
Illustrator: Megha Vishwanath

Level 1
Emergent Reader





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